

# Officer dies after accident

Dyer had been directing traffic at Marshfield Fair

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Duxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca said Mel E. Dyer epitomized community service and had a great sense of humor.

"He was the only cop I ever knew that wore suspenders with his uniform," DeLuca said. "He was a character, very

sincere, honorable; he was just a great guy. He's going to be sorely missed, not just by us, but by society in general."

Dyer, a part-time Duxbury police officer, died Monday night at age 67, nine days after he was hit by a car while directing traffic at the Marshfield Fair.

DeLuca said at a press conference on Tuesday that over the years, Dyer taught

children and seniors about gun safety at school and senior police academies.

"He loved community service; he was a Marine for 20 years. That was what his whole life was about, serving people," he said. "He put many of our younger cops to shame."

Dyer served in the Marines for 20 years, followed by a career in insurance.

After he retired, he served as president of the Marshfield Rod and Gun Club, a volunteer post.

At the behest of Sheriff Joseph McDonald, he went to basic reserve police academy and was made a reserve deputy for the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department in 2005. A year

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ago, he was made a special reserve officer for the town of Duxbury.

McDonald said he knew Dyer from the rod and gun club.

"When I was first elected as sheriff, I approached Melvin Dyer, a good friend of mine and someone who had dedicated his life to public service, first in the Marine Corps and then in the insurance business," he said. "I said to him, 'You really should consider doing some police work. Not only would you be good at it, but I think the public would really react.' It was always his interest to help others, and police work was just another way of doing that."

Lenny Laforest, president of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, which runs the Marshfield Fair, expressed sympathy for Dyer and his family.

"It's a tragic accident, something we hoped would never happen," he said.

Capt. Phil Tavares of the Marshfield Police Department announced that police have developed probable cause that

**To view footage from Tuesday's press conference, go to [wickedlocal.com/duxbury](http://wickedlocal.com/duxbury).**

Dyer died from injuries sustained from the car accident, and that they have sought an additional charge of motor vehicle homicide against the driver of the vehicle which hit Dyer, Kristin Wustaney, 25, of Marshfield. The other charges are failure to stop for a police officer, speeding, and operating to endanger.

According to police, Dyer was working a paid detail at the intersection of Route 3A and South River Street when he was struck by Wustaney's silver Toyota sedan at about 10 p.m.

Police said that Dyer was helping pedestrians and vehicles leaving the fair when he was hit.

Dyer was brought by helicopter to Brigham & Women's Hospital, where he remained in critical condition until his death.